

HB 65 Proponent Testimony
Presented by Chris Chmiel
Before the House State and Local Government Committee
Chair Marlene Anielski
March 7, 2017

Chair Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley, Ranking Member Bishoff and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide proponent testimony today on House Bill 65. My name is Chris Chmiel, and I am the owner and operator of Integration Acres, which is located in Athens County.

I am supportive of House Bill 65 because it will improve food safety in Ohio. I support the bill's focus on implementing risk-based inspections, which will identify critical violations that are more likely to cause restaurant goers to get sick.

I am not supportive of local health inspectors being forced to implement an overbearing approach to food safety in which they will destroy any chance of a working relationship between industry and themselves. I do not believe this approach will improve food safety. All it will do is provide a false narrative to the public regarding the level of food safety at food businesses.

I understand that I am required to be in compliance with the food code, and I'm not advocating to be given a pass. I'm supporting the notion that government and industry can work together to achieve compliance, and more importantly, increase the level of food safety in the state.

I'm asking you to support House Bill 65 in order to protect small businesses from over regulation and to protect and improve food safety throughout Ohio.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding this legislation. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.